

CLAIMS:

1. A rare-earth oxide thermal spray coated article comprising:
  - 5 a substrate and
  - a coating layer formed by thermally spraying a rare-earth oxide thermal spraying powder onto a surface of the substrate,
  - 10 said coating layer being of a gray or black color having, in the L\*a\*b\* color space, an L\* value of up to 50, an a\* value of -3.0 to +3.0, and a b\* value of -3.0 to +3.0.
2. The article of claim 1 wherein the coating layer contains carbon, titanium or molybdenum.
- 15 3. The article of claim 1 wherein the coating layer has a carbon content of 0.1 to 2% by weight or a titanium or molybdenum content of 1 to 1000 ppm.
- 20 4. A rare-earth oxide powder for thermal spraying, which powder is of a gray or black color having, in the L\*a\*b\* color space, an L\* value of up to 50, an a\* value of -3.0 to +3.0 and a b\* value of -3.0 to +3.0.